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## Nominations open for Governor's Humanities Awards

Humanities Montana seeks nominations for the 2015 Governor's Humanities Awards, to be conferred at a ceremony, Feb. 19, 2015, in Helena.

"We're honored to celebrate the achievements of hard-working, dedicated Montana citizens," says Ken Egan, Humanities Montana's executive director. "Our state is blessed with a breadth and depth of humanities talent."

Nominations should be no more than two word-processed pages and should address the nominee's contributions to the humanities. Nominations for both individuals and organizations will be considered. Members of the Humanities Montana board and its staff are ineligible for consideration.

There are no formal award categories. Considerations will focus on scholarship in, and service to, the humanities, the enhancement of public understanding of the humanities and other humanities-related endeavors. The humanities include the study of literature, history, philosophy, languages, religious studies and other disciplines.

The nomination deadline is Friday, Aug. 1. Nominations should be sent to: Governor's Humanities Awards, Humanities Montana, 311 Brantly, Missoula, MT 59812.

For queries, write to the same address, call 406-243-6022 or 800-624-6001, or e-mail [info@humanitiesmontana.org](mailto:info@humanitiesmontana.org).

## MORE TRANSITIONS



Dixie Yelvington

Welcome to **Dixie Yelvington**, who recently joined the staff at the Yellowstone Art Museum in Billings as marketing and public relations coordinator. The Butte native earned a bachelor of fine arts degree in graphic design from Montana State University, Bozeman, and was a customer service representative and graphic designer at Insty Prints in Butte and a graphic designer at the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*. As a painter, she had her first solo fine art show at the Charles Clark Chateau in Butte, and participated in the Montana Arts Council's Montana

Artrepreneur Program last year.

Welcome to two new additions to the staff at the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture in Bozeman: exhibits curator **Heather Hardester** and education curator **Alissa Popken**. Hardester is a Gallatin Valley native who earned a bachelor's from Concordia College and a master's from the University of St. Thomas – both in art history. She returns to Bozeman by way of Minnesota where she taught at Concordia College and managed the campus art gallery. She also previously served as development coordinator and director of the museum studies program at the Rourke Art Museum in Moorhead, MN. Popken has six years' experience planning and implementing enrichment programs for students of all ages. She earned her bachelor's in fine arts with an emphasis in painting from Northwest Missouri State University. For the past year, she has served as the Emerson's program assistant, and with her promotion aims to revise the Emerson's art education offerings to best meet the needs of the local community. Both say they look forward to collaborating with the area's community of artists and building an exhibition and education program that is mutually enriching and diverse.



Heather Hardester



Alissa Popken

Welcome to **Shelly Pardis** and **Barb Leland**, the new co-directors of Helena's Xpress Singers, the local Sweet Adelines International affiliate. Pardis, a business analyst and project specialist for the Montana Public Employee Retirement Administration, and Leland, owner of Helena's Friendly's Sinclair, are both long-time chorus members. They replace former director **Elizabeth Keller**, who recently moved to Salem, OR. Pardis and Leland plan to enhance the Xpress Singers' offerings with newer a cappella arrangements of more current songs. "We're going to try to shake things up a bit by adding more energy and more fun in our performances," Leland said. The Xpress Singers perform at a variety of venues, including Brewers' ballgames, retirement homes, conventions, and their annual show. The chorus is looking for new members in all four voice parts: tenor, lead, baritone, bass (call Janice Crawley at 406-459-8267 for information). In addition to her involvement with the Helena chorus, Pardis was also reappointed to her fourth term as coordinator of Sweet Adelines International's Young Singers Foundation, which teaches the skills, joy and rewards of performing and singing four-part harmony barbershop style.

Welcome to **Craig Huisenga**, the new managing producer for NOVA Center for the Performing Arts in Billings. Huisenga has served as interim managing producer since October, when he took over the reins of the newly formed organization – a merger of Rimrock Opera and Venture Theatre. At the end of its first season, NOVA is in the black and has planned a challenging second season of opera, theatre, improv comedy, and conservatory classes. Huisenga is a Billings native who received a BFA in communication arts from Pacific Lutheran University and graduate training in theatre at Illinois State University. He served as associate artistic director of Seattle's Bathhouse Theatre, drama director at Churchill High School in Eugene, OR, and managing director of Common Ground Theatre in San Diego. Since moving back to Billings in 2009, Huisenga has been active as an actor and director at both Billings Studio Theatre and at Venture/NOVA. This season, he directed NOVA's productions of "August: Osage County" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

So long and best wishes to **Lorilee Evans-Lynn**, who retired at the end of the school year from teaching at Big Sky High School in Missoula, where she has helped students publish *Aerie Big Sky* magazine for 29 years. The nationally recognized magazine has evolved from a compilation of nearly 240 pages of students' literary and artwork, assembled by hand, to its current version, a slick paperback – one version devoted to Big Sky students' work, and the other, *Aerie International*, filled with work by students around the world. Evans-Lynn eventually entered the magazine in the National Council of Teachers of English's Program to Recognize Excellence in Student Literary Magazines competition, and it received the organization's highest award in

1999. *Aerie International* is funded, in part, by an annual student reading, hosted by the Dana Gallery. According to Evans-Lynn, who also co-teaches American studies and creative writing at Big Sky, students have been the inspiration and force behind the magazine's growth. "And I had the good sense to say, OK, let's get on that train," she told the *Missoulian*. The dedicated teacher adds, "I will miss this family, this daily, ongoing family."

– From the *Missoulian*, April 10

So long and best wishes to **Sally Mauk**, who retired May 30 after 34 years with Montana Public Radio, 31 of them as news director. The University of Kansas graduate and former wilderness ranger has reported on everything from the legislature to forest fires. "Your insightful questions over the years have enriched news coverage and really shaped and enriched the public dialogue," said Gov. Steve Bullock in one of many audio tributes to Mauk posted at Montana Public Radio's website, [mtpr.org](http://mtpr.org).

## CONDOLENCES TO ...

The family and friends of former Missoula Symphony Orchestra conductor **Joseph Henry**. He died June 1 in Missoula. Born in Toledo, Ohio, on Oct. 10, 1930, Henry showed an early talent on that most difficult orchestral instrument, the French horn. Soon he set sights on conducting. While still in high school, he founded the Toledo Youth Orchestra, which still flourishes today as a program of the Toledo Symphony Orchestra.

He attended the prestigious Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where he eventually earned his doctor of musical arts and performer's certificate in conducting. He continued his education internationally with the Netherlands Radio Orchestra Conductor's Course, followed by two years of study as a Fulbright Fellow in Vienna and Salzburg, Austria. Especially important to his development were the four summers he spent at L'Ecole Montoux in Hancock, ME.

Early in his career, Henry taught at the State University of New York at Oswego, Ohio University and Eastern New Mexico State University. In 1984, he was hired as a professor of music at The University of Montana, a position that also included the duties of conducting the Missoula Symphony Orchestra. Under his direction, musicians began to receive pay for their services, the number of annual performances doubled, concerts were broadcast on Montana Public Radio, a Young Artist Competition was established, and in 1999, the position of music director became a full-time job, independent of UM.

Henry's influence extended across the state through affiliations with the Red Lodge Summer Festival and the Montana Summer Symphony in Helena. In recognition of these contributions, Gov. Brian Schweitzer awarded him the Montana Citizen's Distinguished Achievement Award in 2011.

His baton led Missoula audiences through quite an odyssey of music over the years. His first concert with the Missoula Civic Symphony on Nov. 10, 1985, included an 18th century Haydn symphony and a brand-new composition

by Missoula's Donald Johnston. His last MSO subscription concert in 2006 featured a new work by Joan Tower, Mozart's Symphony No. 39 and the famous Beethoven "Triple Concerto" (Mayor John Engen proclaimed the occasion Joseph Henry Day in Missoula). A couple of months later, he went out with a bang conducting Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" for an audience of 5,000 during Symphony in the Park, the free open-air concert in Caras Park he helped create.

For the 100th anniversary of The University of Montana, he mustered the musical forces necessary to perform Gustav Mahler's Eighth Symphony, and later tackled Benjamin Britten's extraordinarily difficult "War Requiem," Bela Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra and, for the MSO's 50th anniversary, Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. When not at work in Missoula, he guest conducted orchestras in the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Mexico. Shortly following an overseas conducting engagement in 2007, Henry suffered a severe stroke that ended his podium career. Thereafter, he remained a fixture at Missoula Symphony Orchestra concerts.

"He was really cued into the strengths of his orchestra," MSO executive director John Driscoll told the *Missoulian*. "He was able to determine what hard pieces we could pull off."

– Excerpted from the *Missoulian*, June 5

The family and friends of Bitterroot Valley photographer **Charlie Israel**. He died April 6 of congestive heart failure at age 80. Israel was born May 15, 1933, in New York City and was given his first camera when he was 11 years old. After graduating from high school in Los Angeles, he took photography classes at L.A. Trade Tech before being drafted into the Army, where he was assigned to a 13-man photo unit with the I Corps Division in Korea. He photographed the historic prisoner-of-war exchange at the Welcome Gate at Pannmunjom and his photos taken during the Korean War were featured in the Army newspaper, *Stars and Stripes*.

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Joseph Henry



Barb Leland and Shelly Pardis